



## Suisun Marsh Charter Group

June 14, 2006

Dear Linda,

The purpose of this letter is to reacquaint you with the Suisun Marsh Charter process, summarize the progress made since the full Suisun Marsh Charter Group was convened on October 16, 2003, and invite you to a key meeting of the full Charter Group on June 22, 2006. This invitation is being extended to you on behalf of the Suisun Marsh Charter Group Principals. The intention of the meeting is to give you a comprehensive review of the efforts expended to date and to solicit your next-level feedback as we continue to advance the Suisun Marsh Charter process.

As you know, the Principal Suisun Marsh agencies listed below are preparing a joint National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (PEIS/EIR) for the Habitat Management, Preservation, and Restoration Plan for the Suisun Marsh (Plan). The respective Federal and State lead agencies for this effort are the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the California Department of Fish and Game. In support of long standing collaborative commitments, the Principal agencies including the lead NEPA/CEQA agencies have agreed to develop the PEIS/EIR in a consensus-based process. In support of the NEPA/CEQA effort and since we last met with you in October 2003, the Suisun Marsh Principals and Writing Group staff have focused on a number of efforts including:

- Completion of public scoping and publication of Scoping Report,
- Recruitment of a Science Advisor (Dr. Stuart Siegel) to support the planning process,
- Development of a Scientific and Technical Advisory Panel of specialists to assist the Science Advisor in the review of key technical elements of the Plan,
- Selection of a consultant (Jones & Stokes) to support the development of the programmatic EIR/EIS (note: contract negotiations are currently underway),
- Development of the multi-organization Management System to specify roles and responsibilities for the continued management and oversight of the project including the Science Advisor and NEPA/CEQA consultants listed above,
- Preparation of the draft purpose and need statement and project description,
- Development of a comprehensive set of potential actions to be used in the Marsh that are consistent with State, Federal, and local planning and regulatory documents related to the Marsh,

- Development of draft alternatives using the aforementioned actions, and
- Continued strategic involvement with agency and executive leadership to ensure continued awareness of the Marsh and its importance.

Given the amount of draft and strategic work that has been accomplished, we feel it is time to convene the full Charter Group to give you a comprehensive review of these efforts and to solicit your feedback on the NEPA/CEQA process. Your organization has a long-standing and critical role in the Marsh. We believe that your involvement in this and subsequent meetings regarding the PEIS/EIR is essential for the successful completion of the documents, and in support of your organization's interests and mission. A full Charter Group meeting will be held on June 22, 2006 at the Solano County Mosquito Abatement District office, 2950 Industrial Court, Fairfield, CA. The meeting will last from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Lunch will be graciously provided by the Suisun Marsh Resource Conservation District.

In closing, we are pleased with the progress we've made so far on this complex effort and are eager to receive your constructive feedback on next steps and considerations. To ensure optimal attendance and confirmation of participants, representatives from our facilitation team, the Center for Collaborative Policy, will contact you as a follow up to this letter. Please be prepared in the coming days to confirm to them your attendance. In advance of the meeting, we also encourage you to visit the Charter website (<http://www.delta.dfg.ca.gov/suisunmarsh/charter>) to review up-to-date information. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Principal Agencies:

